

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in this application, claims 7-12 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer prior to the office action. By this amendment, claims 1, 2 and 4 are amended and new claims 13-18 are added. No new matter is introduced. Thus, claims 1-6 and 13-18 are now pending. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,084,905 to Sasaki et al. (Sasaki). It is believed that the Examiner incorrectly indicated 102(b) in the above rejection based on the Examiner's obviousness remarks on page 3, first paragraph of the Office Action. Further, claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sasaki in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0006558 to Kobayashi et al. (Kobayashi). These rejections are respectfully traversed at least for the reasons provided below.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Sasaki alone makes obvious the invention of claim 1. However, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, the features of “a projection over a drain electrode of the thin film transistor; and a pixel electrode connected to the projection, wherein the projection has a stacked structure.” (See, for example, page 20, lines 2-6 and FIGS. 1C to 1E). Applicants contend that Sasaki fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of wherein the projection has a stacked structure, as presently claimed. Thus, it cannot be said that Sasaki makes obvious the present invention, as claimed.

The Examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. *MPEP* §2142. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, to modify the references or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art must teach all the claim limitations. *MPEP* §2142. Sasaki fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of the present application, as discussed above.

Applicants respectfully point to the final prong of the test, which states the prior art must teach all the claim limitations. At the very least, Sasaki does not teach all of the limitations of

independent claim 1.

Kobayashi does not overcome the deficiencies of Sasaki, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable as discussed previously. Further, any claim that depends from an allowable claim is allowable as well. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of all remaining dependent claims likewise be removed.

New claims 13-18 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 9, line 23 to page 24, line 19 and FIGS. 1A to 1E. Claim 13 similarly recites, among other things, the features of “wherein each of the first projection and the second projection has a stacked structure.”

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be withdrawn, that claims 1-6 be allowed, that new claims 13-18 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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